King Charls
HIS
SPEECH
Made upon the
CAFFOLD
At *Whitehall*-Gate,
Immediately before his Execution,
On Tuesday the 30 of *Ian.* 1648.
With a Relation of the maner of his going to Execution.

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HIS

SPEECH

Made upon the Scaffold at *White-hall*-Gate, immediately before his Execution.

Tuesday, January 30.

ABout ten in the Morning the King was brought from St. James's walking on foot through the Park, with a Regiment of Foot, part before and part behinde him, with Colours flying, Drums beating, his private Guard of Partizans, with some of his Gentlemen before, and some behinde bareheaded, D. Juxon

next behinde him, and Col: *Thomlinſon* (who had the charge of him) talking with the King bareheaded from the Park, up the ſtairs into the Gallery, and ſo into the * Cabinet-Chamber, where he uſed to lie, where he continued at his Devotion, refuſing to dine (having before taken the Sacrament) onely about an hour before he came forth, he drank a glaſs of Claret wine, and eat a piece of bread about twelve at noon.

* It is obſerv'd, The King deſired to have the uſe of the Cabinet, and the little room next it, where there was a Trap-door.

From thence he was accompanied by Dr. *Iuxon*, Col: *Thomlinſon*, and other Officers, formerly appointed to attend him, and the private Guard of Partizans, with Musketiers on each ſide, through the Banquetting-houſe adjoyning, to which the * Scaffold was erected, between Whitehall Gate, and the Gate leading into the Gallery from St. James's: The Scaffold was hung round with black, and the floor covered with black, and the Ax and Block laid in the middle of the Scaffold. There were divers Companies of Foot, and Troops of Horſe placed on the one ſide the Scaffold towards Kings-ſtreet, and on the other ſide towards Charing

* It was near (if not in) the very place where the firſt blood in the beginning of the late troubles was ſhed, when the Kings Cavaliers fell upon the Citizens, killed one, and wounded about 50 others.

ring Croſs, and the multitudes of people that came to be Spectators, very great.

The King being come upon the Scaffold, look'd very earneſtly on the Block, and asked Col: *Hacker* if there were no higher; and then ſpake thus (directing his ſpeech chiefly to Col: *Thomlinſon*)

I Shall be very little heard of any body here, I ſhall therefore ſpeak a word unto you here; indeed I could hold my peace very well, if I did not think that holding my peace, would make ſome men think that I did ſubmit to the guilt, as well as to the puniſhment; but I think it is my duty to God firſt, and to my Countrey, for to clear my ſelf both as an honeſt man, and a good King, and a good Chriſtian, I ſhall begin firſt with my Innocency, In troth I think it not very needful for me to inſiſt long upon this, for all the world knows that I never did begin a War with the two Houſes of Parliament, and I call God to witneſs, to whom I muſt ſhortly make an account, that I never did intend for to incroach upon their *King.*

their Priviledges, they began upon me, it is the Militia they began upon, they confeſt that the Militia was mine, but they thought it fit for to have it from me; and to be ſhort, if any body will look to the dates of Commiſsions, of their Commiſſions and mine, and likewiſe to the Declarations, wil ſee clearly that they began theſe unhappy troubles, not I; ſo that as the guilt of theſe Enormous crimes that are laid againſt me, I hope in God that God will clear me of it, I will not, I am in charity; God forbid that I ſhould lay it upon the two Houſes of Parliament, there is no neceſsity of either, I hope they are free of this guilt; for I do believe that ill inſtruments between them and me, has been the chief cauſe of all this bloodſhed; ſo that by way of ſpeaking, as I finde my ſelf clear of this, I hope (and pray God) that they may too; yet for all this, God forbid that I ſhould be ſo ill a Chriſtian, as not to ſay that Gods Judgements are juſt upon me: Many times he does pay Juſtice by an unjuſt Sentence, that is ordinary; I will onely ſay this, That an unjuſt

Sentence

Sentence * that I ſuffered for to take effect, is puniſhed now, by an unjuſt Sentence upon me; that is, ſo far I have ſaid, to ſhew you that I am an innocent man. * *Strafford.*

Now for to ſhew you that I am a good Chriſtian: I hope there is * a good man that will bear me witneſs, That I have forgiven all the world, and even thoſe in particular that have been the chief cauſers of my death; who they are, God knows, I do not deſire to know, I pray God forgive them. But this is not all, my charity muſt go further, I wiſh that they may repent, for indeed they have committed a great ſin in that particular, I pray God with St. *Stephen*, That this be not laid to their charge; nay, not onely ſo, but that they may take the right way to the Peace of the Kingdom, for my charity commands me uot onely to forgive particular men, but my charity commands me to endeavor to the laſt gaſp the peace of the kingdom: So (Sirs) I do wiſh with all my ſoul, and I do hope (there is * ſome here will carry it further) that * Pointing to Dr. Iuxon.

* Turning to ſom: Gentlemen that wrote

that they may endeavor the Peace of the Kingdom. Now (Sirs) I must shew you both how you are out of the way, and will put you in a way; first, you are out of the way, for certainly all the way you ever have had yet as I could finde by any thing, is in the way of Conqueſt; certainly this is an ill way, for Conqueſt (Sir) in my opinion is never juſt, except there be a good juſt Cauſe, either for matter of wrong or juſt Title, and then if you go beyond it, the firſt quarrel that you have to it, that makes it unjuſt at the end, that was juſt at firſt: But if it be only matter of Conqueſt, then it is a great Robbery; as a Pirat ſaid to *Alexander*, that He was the great Robber, he was but a petty Robber; and ſo, Sir, I do think the way that you are in, is much out of the way. Now Sir, for to put you in the way, believe it you will never do right, nor God will never proſper you, until you give God his due, the King his due (that is, my Succeſſors) and the People their due; I am as much for them as any of you: You

must

muſt give God his due, by regulating rightly his Church (according to his Scripture) which is now out of order: For to ſet you in a way particularly now I cannot, but onely this, A National Synod freely called, freely debating among themſelves, muſt ſettle this; when that every Opinion is freely and cleerly heard.

For the King, indeed I will not, (then turning to a Gentleman that touched the Ax, ſaid, Hurt not the Ax that may hurt me *. For the King:) The Laws of the Land will clearly inſtruct you for that; therefore, becauſe it concerns My Own particular, I onely give you a touch of it.

* Meaning if he did blunt the edg.

For the people. And truly I deſire their Liberty and Freedom, as much as any Body whomſoever; but I muſt tell you, That their Liberty and their Freedom, conſiſts in having of Government; thoſe Laws, by which their Life and their Goods, may be moſt their own. It is not for having ſhare in Government (Sir)

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that is nothing pertaining to them. A Subject and a Soveraign, are clean different things; and therefore, until they do that, I mean, That you do put the people in that Liberty as I ſay, certainly they will never enjoy themſelves.

Sirs, It was for this, that now I Am come here: If I would have given way to an Arbitrary way, for to have all Laws changed according to the power of the Sword, I needed not to have come here; and therefore, I tell you, (and I pray God it be not laid to your charge) That I Am the Martyr of the People.

Introth Sirs, I ſhall not hold you much longer; for I will Onely ſay this to you, That intruth, I could have deſired ſome little time longer, becauſe that I would have put this that I have ſaid, in a little more order, and a little better digeſted, then I have done; and therefore I hope you will excuſe Me.

I have delivered my Conſcience, I pray God, that you do take thoſe courſes that are beſt for the good of the Kingdom, and your own Salvations.

Doctor *Juxon*.

Will Your Majeſty (though it may be very well known Your Majeſties Affections to Religion, yet it may be expected, that You ſhould) ſay ſomewhat for the Worlds ſatisfaction.

King.

I thank you very heartily (my Lord) for that, I had almoſt forgotten it. Introth Sirs, My Conſcience in Religion, I think, is very well known to all the World; and therefore, I declare before you all, That I die a Chriſtian according to the Profeſſion of the Church of ENGLAND, as I found it left Me by My Father; and this honeſt man * I think will witneſs it. Then turning to the Officers ſaid, Sirs, excuſe me for this ſame. I have a good Cauſe, and I have a gracious God; I will

* Pointing to Dr. *Juxon*.

ſay no more. Then turning to Colonel *Hacker*, he ſaid, Take care that they do not put Me to pain, and Sir this, and it pleaſe you: But then a Gentleman coming neer the Ax, the King ſaid, Take heed of the Ax, pray take heed of the Ax. Then the King ſpeaking to the Executioner, ſaid, I ſhall ſay but very ſhort Prayers, and when I thruſt out My hands ———. Then the King called to Doctor *Iuxon* for His Night-Cap, and having put it on, He ſaid to the Executioner, Does My Hair trouble you? Who deſired Him to put it all under His Cap, which the King did accordingly, by the help of the Executioner and the Biſhop: then the King turning to Doctor *Iuxon* ſaid, I have a good Cauſe, and a gracious God on my ſide.

Doctor *Juxon.*

There is but one Stage more. This Stage is turbulent and troubleſome; it is a ſhort one: But You may conſider it will ſoon carry You a very great way; it will carry You from Earth to Heaven; and there You ſhall finde

a great deal of Cordial, Joy, and Comfort.

King.

I go from a corruptible, to an incorruptible Crown; where no disturbance can be, no disturbance in the World.

Doctor *Juxon.*

You are exchanged from a Temporal to an eternal Crown; a good exchange.

The King then said to the Executioner, is My Hair well: Then the King took off His Cloak and His George, giving His George to Doctor *Juxon*, saying, Remember * ———. Then the King put off His Dublet, and being in His Wastecoat, put His Cloak on again; then looking upon the block, said to the Executioner, You must set it fast.

* It is thought for to give it to the Prince.

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Executioner. It is fast Sir.

King. It might have been a little higher.

Executioner. It can be no higher Sir.

King.

King. When I put out my hands this way, * then ———.

*Stretching them out.

After that, having ſaid two or three words (as he ſtood) to Himſelf with hands and eyes lift up; Immediately ſtooping down, laid His Neck upon the Block: And then the Executioner again putting his Hair under his Cap, the King ſaid, * Stay for the ſigne.

* Thinking he had bin going to ſtrike.

Executioner. Yes, I will, and it pleaſe Your Majeſty.

And after a very little pawſe, the King ſtretching forth his hands, The Executioner at one blow, ſevered his head from his Body.

That when the Kings head was cut off, the Executioner held it up, and ſhewed it to the Spectators.

And his Body was put in a Coffin, covered with black Velvet, for that purpoſe.

The Kings Body now lies in His Lodging Chamber in Whitehall.

Sic tranſit gloria mundi.

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FINIS.